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TRADE POLICY REVIEW

REPORT BY

VIET NAM

Pursuant to the Agreement Establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (Annex 3 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization), the policy statement by Viet Nam is attached.

Note: This report is subject to restricted circulation and press embargo until the end of the first session of the meeting of the Trade Policy Review Body on Viet Nam.

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1 OVERVIEW

1.1. This is Viet Nam's government report for its third Trade Policy Review. The Report focuses on key developments during the 2021-2025 period and provides updates on a number of important reforms implemented in 2026.

1.2. The review period took place against a particularly complex backdrop. The COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, fluctuations in energy and food prices, together with the increasing use of trade-restrictive measures, had significant impacts on a highly open economy such as Viet Nam. In response to these challenges, Viet Nam maintained a consistent policy orientation towards macroeconomic stability, market openness, institutional reform and deeper international economic integration.

1.3. Trade policy during the review period was pursued along four major directions: (i) strengthening the resilience and recovery of the economy; (ii) improving the business environment, enhancing transparency and reducing compliance costs; (iii) promoting digital transformation, innovation and green development; and (iv) continuing to implement international commitments, expanding trade relations and contributing actively to the multilateral trading system.

1.4. Viet Nam regards the WTO as the central foundation of the global trading system. Viet Nam continues to support an open, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system, while participating in discussions on WTO reform, the full restoration of the dispute settlement mechanism, and the updating of trade rules to reflect changes in the global economy.

1.5. Viet Nam continues to reform law-making and law enforcement, promote decentralization and simplify administrative procedures, improve the quality of public services, foster competition and facilitate the development of the private sector. This process is linked to the objectives of improving productivity, increasing domestic value added and strengthening linkages between domestic enterprises and the foreign-invested sector.

1.6. Viet Nam is fully aware of the remaining challenges, including dependence on imported raw materials and components, the large share of the FDI sector in exports, uneven capacity to utilize FTAs, high logistics costs, and differences among enterprises and localities in their capacity to meet new requirements relating to digitalization, the environment and sustainable development. These issues will be central to the reform agenda in the period ahead.

2 ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Economic developments

2.1. During the 2021-2025 period, Viet Nam's economy experienced a marked recovery following the severe impacts of the pandemic. GDP growth stood at 2.55% in 2021, increased to 8.54% in 2022, slowed to 4.98% in 2023, and subsequently recovered to 7.04% in 2024 and approximately 8.02% in 2025. Average growth over the period was approximately 6.20% per year, reflecting the economy's ability to adapt to external shocks and the recovery of production, consumption, investment and trade.

2.2. The size of the economy continued to expand. In 2025, GDP at current prices was estimated at approximately USD 514 billion, while GDP per capita reached approximately USD 5,026. Average inflation during the 2021-2025 period was approximately 3.03%, with respective rates of 1.84% in 2021, 3.15% in 2022, 3.25% in 2023, 3.63% in 2024 and 3.31% in 2025. Maintaining price stability amid significant fluctuations in international commodity prices contributed to strengthening business and investor confidence.

2.3. Fiscal and monetary policies were coordinated to support the recovery, maintain macroeconomic stability and safeguard the financial system. The Socio-Economic Recovery and Development Programme under Resolution No. 11/NQ-CP dated 30 January 2022 had a total value of nearly VND 350 trillion, focusing on healthcare, social security, business support, infrastructure investment and institutional reform. During the 2021-2025 period, development investment expenditure was prioritized, while the state budget deficit was maintained within the limits permitted by the National Assembly and public debt remained below the safety threshold.

2.4. The economic structure continued to shift towards industrialization and modernization. The agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector maintained its fundamental role, with an average growth rate of approximately 3.74% during the 2021-2025 period; the industry and construction sector continued to be an important growth driver, with manufacturing and processing making a significant contribution to growth and exports; and the services sector recovered rapidly from 2022, particularly in wholesale and retail trade, transportation, finance, banking, tourism and digital services.

2.5. Viet Nam stepped up investment in transport, energy and digital infrastructure. By the end of 2025, more than 3,200 km of expressways and more than 1,700 km of coastal roads had been completed or put into operation. A number of major projects in aviation, seaports, power transmission lines and data centres were implemented to improve regional connectivity, reduce logistics costs and support the development of e-commerce and digital services.

Table 2.1 Selected key economic and trade indicators

Indicator	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
GDP growth (%)	2.55	8.54	4.98	7.04	8.02
Average inflation (%)	1.84	3.15	3.25	3.63	3.31
Merchandise exports (billion USD)	336.2	371.7	354.7	405.9	475.0
Merchandise imports (billion USD)	333.0	359.8	326.6	381.3	454.9
Realized FDI (billion USD)	19.7	22.4	23.2	25.4	27.6

2.2 Trade in goods

2.6. Trade continued to be a major driver of the economy. Preliminary total merchandise trade in 2025 reached approximately USD 929.9 billion, an increase of 18.1% compared with 2024 and the highest level on record. Of this total, exports reached USD 475.0 billion, up 17%, while imports reached USD 454.9 billion, up 19.3%. The ratio of total merchandise trade to GDP remained high, reflecting Viet Nam's deep integration into international trade and regional supply chains.

2.7. The export structure continued to shift towards manufactured and processed goods. In 2025, 36 product groups recorded export values exceeding USD 1 billion, accounting for 94.0% of total export value; of these, eight product groups exceeded USD 10 billion, accounting for 70.2%. Electronics, computers and components reached approximately USD 107.7 billion; machinery, equipment and spare parts USD 59 billion; telephones and components USD 56.7 billion; textiles and garments USD 39.6 billion; and footwear USD 24.2 billion.

2.8. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries continued to play an important role, with increasingly diversified export markets. In 2025, preliminary exports of fishery products reached USD 11.3 billion; coffee USD 8.9 billion; cashew nuts USD 5.2 billion; rice USD 4.1 billion; rubber USD 3.3 billion; and pepper USD 1.7 billion. Exports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products increased from approximately USD 31.5 billion in 2021 to more than USD 50.9 billion in 2025, with markets expanding to approximately 200 countries and territories.

2.9. The United States continued to be Viet Nam's largest export market, with exports reaching approximately USD 153.1 billion in 2025, followed by China, the European Union, ASEAN, the Republic of Korea and Japan. Imports consisted mainly of machinery, equipment, raw materials and components for production. Asia continued to account for a large share of Viet Nam's trade, reflecting deep integration into regional supply chains, particularly in electronics, textiles and garments, footwear, mechanical engineering and chemicals.

2.10. Foreign-invested enterprises played a major role in merchandise trade. In 2025, exports by the FDI sector reached approximately USD 370.3 billion, accounting for 78.0% of total exports, while imports reached USD 322.4 billion, accounting for 70.9% of total imports. This reflects the role of FDI in the development of production and exports, while also highlighting the need to strengthen linkages with domestic enterprises, develop supporting industries and increase the share of domestic value added.

2.3 Trade in services

2.11. Trade in services recovered alongside the reopening of the economy. According to data from the Ministry of Finance, total trade in services during the 2021–2025 period reached

USD 254.9 billion, of which services exports amounted to USD 99.4 billion, with average annual growth of approximately 25.2%, while services imports reached USD 155.6 billion, with average annual growth of approximately 14.9%. Travel services accounted for the largest share of services exports, with a value of more than USD 40.0 billion, representing approximately 40.2% of Viet Nam's total services exports. Transport services ranked second, with exports exceeding USD 31.5 billion. These two service categories continued to play a leading role in the structure of Viet Nam's services exports. Meanwhile, imports of transport services exceeded USD 68.2 billion, accounting for approximately 43.9% of total services imports. Travel services also accounted for a significant share of services imports, at approximately 29.7%.

2.12. Following the sharp decline caused by COVID-19, international tourism, aviation, transport and accommodation services recovered rapidly. At the same time, financial, information, telecommunications, information technology, business and trade-support services showed an upward trend. Digital transformation, electronic payments and the development of online platforms created additional opportunities for services exports, but also generated requirements relating to infrastructure, skills, cybersecurity and consumer right protection.

2.4 Investment and participation in regional and global value chains

2.13. In 2025, total registered FDI reached approximately USD 38.42 billion, comprising USD 17.32 billion in newly registered capital, USD 14.07 billion in additional capital for existing projects, and USD 7.03 billion through capital contributions and purchases of shares and capital contributions by foreign investors. Realized FDI reached approximately USD 27.62 billion, an increase of 9% compared with 2024 and one of the highest levels of disbursement in many years.

2.14. FDI inflows were concentrated mainly in manufacturing and processing, technology, energy, real estate and services. Viet Nam continued to improve its project selection mechanisms with a view to prioritizing high technology, innovation, research and development centres, the semiconductor industry, digital transformation and green development. At the same time, the Government strengthened reviews of compliance with laws and regulations on investment, environment, labour and technology transfer.

2.15. The FDI sector made significant contributions to exports, employment and economic restructuring, although linkages with domestic enterprises remained limited. Viet Nam is implementing policies to develop supporting industries, enhance the capacity of domestic suppliers, promote technology transfer and support small and medium-sized enterprises in participating in the supply chains of multinational corporations.

3 DOMESTIC REFORMS AND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Institutional reform and state governance

3.1. During the review period, Viet Nam continued to improve the legal framework governing investment, enterprises, competition, land, finance, banking, public procurement, electronic transactions, telecommunications, data, intellectual property and sector-specific management. The law-making process placed greater emphasis on impact assessment, consultation with affected stakeholders, publication of draft legal documents, and review of their consistency with international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party.

3.2. In 2025, Viet Nam restructured the state administrative apparatus towards a leaner organizational structure, greater decentralization and shorter decision-making processes. The 2025 Law on Government Organization and the 2025 Law on Organization of Local Government provided the basis for adjustments to the organizational model, clearer delineation of authority between the central and local levels, and enhanced accountability in the provision of public services and the processing of administrative procedures.

3.3. The Master Programme on State Administrative Reform for the 2021-2030 period and programmes to reduce and simplify business regulations continued to be implemented. The National Public Service Portal was developed into a focal point for the provision of online public services; many procedures were digitalized and could be carried out irrespective of administrative boundaries

within the provincial level. Viet Nam also reviewed hundreds of tasks for decentralization to ministries, sectors and local authorities in line with the new governance model.

3.4. Viet Nam strengthened consultation in the law-making process, published draft legal documents in accordance with regulations, and stepped-up policy impact assessments. State agencies were required to review business conditions, licensing procedures, reporting requirements and specialized inspection requirements in order to reduce compliance costs and increase predictability for businesses.

3.2 Monetary, foreign exchange and financial policies

3.5. The State Bank of Viet Nam conducted monetary policy in a proactive and flexible manner, in close coordination with fiscal policy and other macroeconomic policies, with a view to contributing to inflation control, macroeconomic stability, supporting growth and ensuring the safety of the system of credit institutions. The exchange rate regime is a managed floating exchange rate regime. The USD/VND central exchange rate is announced daily and adjusted flexibly in response to market developments, macroeconomic balances and monetary policy objectives. Since October 2022, the USD/VND trading band has been widened from ±3% to ±5%.

3.6. The foreign exchange management framework continued to be improved with a view to facilitating current transactions, investment and access to international capital, while ensuring financial safety. The law permits payments and transfers for current transactions on the basis of appropriate documentation and supporting documents. Regulations on foreign borrowing and debt repayment, international bond issuance, investment accounts and capital transactions were reviewed to simplify procedures and enhance transparency.

3.7. Viet Nam continued to restructure the system of credit institutions, address weak institutions, strengthen risk management and apply prudential standards. Regulations on lending, bank guarantees, factoring, letters of credit, financial leasing and debt trading were further improved. Credit policies for agriculture and rural areas, small and medium-sized enterprises, disadvantaged areas and vulnerable groups were implemented in accordance with socio-economic development objectives and on the basis of publicly available criteria.

3.8. Environmental risk management in credit activities received increasing attention. Credit institutions were encouraged to integrate environmental and social factors into appraisal, credit granting and risk management processes. Viet Nam also promoted non-cash payments, digital banking and green finance, accompanied by strengthened system security and safety and customer protection.

3.3 Tax policies and investment support

3.9. The tax policy system continued to be revised to support recovery, encourage investment, promote innovation and ensure sustainable revenue. Tax policies have become increasingly public, transparent and simple, and more coherent with the relevant legal framework, thereby contributing to improving the effectiveness of state management, enhancing the transparency of economic activities, combating fraud, promoting business accounting and the use of invoices and supporting documents, improving corporate governance capacity, and encouraging the development of non-cash payment transactions. Tax policies contribute to the implementation of Viet Nam's commitments upon joining the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), ASEAN + 3, the WTO, etc., and ensure consistency with international practices.

3.10. The standard corporate income tax rate is 20%; lower preferential rates (17%, 15% and 10%) are applied according to eligible sectors, business lines and geographical areas, as well as project conditions and criteria prescribed by law. Incentive policies are applied on the basis of publicly stipulated conditions, consistently across all economic sectors, without discrimination between domestic and foreign investors.

3.11. The 2025 Law on Corporate Income Tax introduced additional provisions to support science, technology, innovation and digital transformation; expanded deductible expenses for scientific research, technology development, innovation and digital transformation; added certain fields relating to high technology, digital technology, semiconductors, data and artificial intelligence to the

categories eligible for incentives; and adjusted the mechanism for making allocations to enterprises' Science and Technology Development Funds. In addition, personal income tax (PIT) policy is designed in accordance with the nature of each type of income and international practices, contributing to attracting high-tech human resources and achieving the objectives of green growth and sustainable development. Accordingly, current legislation provides PIT exemptions for certain types of income, such as income from the first transfer of greenhouse gas emission reduction results and carbon credits; interest income from green bonds; income from the first transfer of green bonds after issuance; salaries and wages from science, technology and innovation tasks; salaries and wages of experts supporting innovative start-ups from innovative start-up projects and innovative start-up enterprises; a five-year PIT exemption for salaries and wages of individuals who are highly qualified human resources in the digital technology industry; a five-year tax exemption for salaries and wages of individuals who are high-tech human resources; and certain other types of income.

3.12. With respect to export and import duties, the law provides for tax exemptions in certain specific cases in order to achieve socio-economic development objectives in each period, with uniform application to exporters and importers. These provisions are reviewed to ensure transparency, verifiability and consistency with international obligations. Value-added tax is applied at a standard rate of 10%, a rate of 0% for qualifying exported goods and services, and a rate of 5% for certain essential goods and services.

3.13. Excise tax policy was adjusted to regulate consumption and support the green transition. Battery electric vehicles are subject to lower tax rates during the transitional period. Viet Nam also continued to review the environmental protection tax, natural resources tax and policies related to land use in order to balance development objectives, environmental protection and resource mobilization.

3.14. With respect to agricultural land use tax, the National Assembly has adopted Resolutions providing for exemptions and reductions of agricultural land use tax since 2001 in order to implement the policy on hunger eradication and poverty reduction as well as encourage agricultural production and investment in disadvantaged areas. At the same time, the Law on Non-Agricultural Land Use Tax also provides for an exemption or a 50% reduction in the tax payable for projects in sectors entitled to special investment incentives, sectors entitled to investment incentives, or projects implemented in areas with difficult or particularly difficult socio-economic conditions.

3.15. In addition to tax incentive policies, Viet Nam continued to improve the legal framework for investment with a view to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of foreign investment attraction, prioritizing projects in high technology, innovation, semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), data centres, clean energy and other high-value-added and sustainable development sectors. The 2020 Law on Investment and its implementing regulations continued to be implemented, while being amended and supplemented to strengthen decentralization and delegation of authority, simplify administrative procedures, and make a stronger shift from ex ante control to ex post supervision for certain projects in high-technology and innovation sectors. Viet Nam also continued to improve investment incentive and support mechanisms, including special investment incentives, the Investment Support Fund and policies for industrial parks and economic zones, contributing to the establishment of a transparent and stable investment environment, ensuring equal treatment between domestic and foreign investors, and enhancing enterprises' participation in regional and global value chains.

3.4 Competition, state-owned enterprises and consumer protection

3.16. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam continued to improve and effectively implement its competition and consumer right protection policies, contributing to a healthy and transparent competitive environment and enhancing the confidence of investors and consumers in the Vietnamese market.

3.17. The 2018 Law on Competition and its implementing regulations continued to provide the legal basis for controlling anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position, abuse of monopoly position and economic concentration. The competition authority strengthened its appraisal of economic concentration transactions, investigation of violations and coordination with sectoral regulatory authorities. With respect to the control of economic concentration, data show a continuous increase in the number of filings handled over the years. While only 63 filings were recorded in 2020,

the number increased to 130 in 2021, 154 in 2022, 183 in 2023, 197 in 2024 and 273 in 2025. In 2025, out of a total of 273 filings received, the competent authority processed 270 filings and conducted official appraisals in 05 cases. Transactions were conducted mainly in the form of acquisitions, accounting for 75% in 2025, and were concentrated in industry, real estate, energy and services. With respect to the handling of competition cases, in 2024, the Viet Nam Competition Commission handled five cases and imposed fines on six enterprises totalling more than VND 2.22 billion; in 2025, it handled 12 unfair competition cases, with total fines amounting to VND 2.4 billion. These results indicate that the detection, investigation and handling of violations of competition law were strengthened, contributing to maintaining a healthy and level competitive environment in the market.

3.18. Viet Nam continued to restructure state capital in enterprises, focusing on essential and key sectors, improving corporate governance, information disclosure and the efficiency of state capital use. At the same time, Viet Nam adopted policies aimed at further separating the state management function from the ownership representative function, strengthening financial supervision, decentralization and delegation of authority, and promoting the operation of state-owned enterprises in accordance with market mechanisms and in compliance with competition and procurement laws.

3.19. The consumer right protection framework was updated and improved to address issues arising from e-commerce, remote transactions, standard-form contracts, general trading conditions, responsibilities of digital platforms and protection of consumer information. Mechanisms for receiving and handling complaints, recalling defective products and goods, and coordinating among state management agencies and social organizations engaged in consumer right protection were strengthened in order to enhance confidence in the market, particularly in the digital environment. The Law on Protection of Consumer Rights No. 19/2023/QH15, adopted in 2023 and effective from 1 July 2024, introduced a number of important provisions on the responsibilities of business organizations and individuals, thereby enhancing responsibility for consumer protection and contributing to the establishment of a transparent and healthy competitive environment. With respect to consumer right protection, implementation results in recent years have shown clear effectiveness, including the following specific outcomes: 5,536 calls in 2024 and 9,513 calls in 2025 were received and answered through the Consumer Consultation and Support Hotline – 1800.6838; the number of consumer petitions, letters, requests, recommendations and complaints resolved by the Viet Nam Competition Commission was 787 in 2024 and 896 in 2025. In addition, the Viet Nam Competition Commission received and monitored 19 defective product recall programmes in 2024 and 22 programmes in 2025, significantly higher than in previous years. With respect to the control of standard-form contracts and general trading conditions, an increase was recorded in the number of registration dossiers submitted to central and local state management agencies responsible for consumer protection. In particular, the central consumer protection authority alone processed 200 dossiers for registration of enterprises' standard-form contracts and general trading conditions.

3.20. In the multi-level marketing sector, the Government reduced a number of business conditions and regulations and reduced and simplified many administrative procedures, thereby facilitating the operation of legitimate multi-level marketing enterprises. At the same time, illegal multi-level marketing activities were strictly handled, contributing to market purification, the establishment of a healthy business environment, and the protection of consumers' legitimate rights and interests.

3.5 Development of the private sector, SMEs and innovation

3.21. During the review period, Viet Nam continued to regard the private sector as one of the important drivers of the economy and implemented a range of policies to improve the investment and business environment, promote innovation and digital transformation, and enhance the competitiveness of domestic enterprises. To promote the development of this sector, the National Assembly adopted Resolution No. 198/2025/QH15 on a number of special mechanisms and policies for private sector development, focusing on improving the business environment, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and innovative start-ups, strengthening value chain linkages and encouraging innovation. At the same time, the Law on Corporate Income Tax No. 67/2025/QH15 introduced a number of tax incentive policies for small enterprises, enterprises converted from household businesses and innovative start-ups, contributing to reducing costs and encouraging investment and production expansion.

3.22. In addition to tax incentives, Viet Nam continued to implement policies to support enterprises in accessing land, production infrastructure and development resources, while strengthening regular dialogue between state management agencies and the business community in order to promptly address difficulties, improve policies and enhance the transparency of the investment environment. In the coming period, Viet Nam will continue to improve the institutional framework for private sector development in order to facilitate enterprises' access to capital, land, technology and high-quality human resources; promote digital transformation and innovation; and strengthen linkages between domestic enterprises and the foreign-invested sector in order to enhance competitiveness and the ability to participate more deeply in regional and global value chains.

3.23. Viet Nam promoted the innovation ecosystem, the development of research and development centres, the semiconductor industry, digital technology, artificial intelligence and high-value-added industries. Support programmes were designed to strengthen linkages among enterprises, research institutes, universities and investors, while encouraging the commercialization of research results and the protection of intellectual property.

4 TRADE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WTO COMMITMENTS

4.1 Tariffs, customs and trade facilitation

4.1. Viet Nam continued to seriously implement its commitments in the area of trade in goods, with particular emphasis on fully complying with the tariff binding and reduction schedules undertaken upon its accession to the WTO. With respect to bound rates, Viet Nam has completed the binding of import tariffs on all tariff lines and ensured that applied MFN tariff rates do not exceed the bound rates set out in its Schedule of Commitments. For agricultural products, tariff rates were reduced by an average of approximately 10.6% during the initial period following accession. For non-agricultural products, Viet Nam implemented substantial reductions for products subject to high tariff rates and maintained low tariff rates in accordance with the relevant schedules. To give effect to these obligations, on 31 May 2023, the Government issued Decree No. 26/2023/ND-CP on the Export Tariff Schedule, Preferential Import Tariff Schedule, List of Goods and Absolute Tariff Rates, Mixed Tariff Rates and Out-of-Quota Tariff Rates. The Decree specifies detailed tariff rates by product category and HS code, ensuring that applied tariff rates do not exceed the levels committed under the WTO.

4.2. The system of legal documents governing import and export management continued to be improved in accordance with the Law on Foreign Trade Management and its implementing regulations. Provisions on goods prohibited from export or import and goods subject to restrictions or licensing requirements were regularly reviewed and updated. During this period, a number of legal documents were issued or amended, including regulations on the importation of remanufactured goods under FTAs, rice export management, gold trading activities, management of weapons, explosives and combat gear, as well as regulations relating to civil cryptography and administrative sanctions. At the same time, the list of scraps permitted for import and sector-specific management regulations continued to be improved to ensure consistency with international obligations.

4.3. In the customs sector, reform efforts focused on modernization, digital transformation and trade facilitation. The legal framework was further improved through Law No. 90/2025/QH15, Decree No. 167/2025/ND-CP and a series of implementing Circulars aimed at removing bottlenecks in on-the-spot import and export procedures and simplifying inspection processes. Customs authorities strengthened risk management, applied pre-arrival processing systems, expanded the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programme, concluded Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) on AEOs, enhanced data connectivity and interoperability through the National Single Window and ASEAN Single Window, and operated the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS). With respect to WTO compliance, Viet Nam has continued to seriously implement the Customs Valuation Agreement by consistently applying the principle of actual transaction value.

4.4. Viet Nam continued to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), including provisions on publication of information, advance rulings, the authorized economic operator programme, risk management and cooperation among border agencies. The implementation of 100% of Category A, B and C commitments reflects Viet Nam's extensive compliance with the TFA and its efforts to comprehensively reduce customs clearance time.

4.2 Non-tariff measures, TBT and SPS

4.5. During the 2021–2026 period, Viet Nam continued to comprehensively improve its legal framework on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment in order to fully implement its obligations under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and commitments under FTAs, particularly the CPTPP, EVFTA and RCEP. The legal framework was strengthened through amendments and supplements to the Law on Standards and Technical Regulations, the Law on Product and Goods Quality, together with implementing decrees and circulars. At the same time, Viet Nam continued to review, improve and strengthen the implementation of transparency mechanisms in the TBT area in line with institutional reform requirements and the restructuring and consolidation of the state administrative apparatus.

4.6. Viet Nam continued to seriously fulfil its transparency obligations under the TBT Agreement. By the end of March 2026, Viet Nam had submitted 444 notifications to the WTO Secretariat; during the 2020–2025 period alone, Viet Nam submitted 257 notifications, equal to the total number of notifications submitted during the two previous review periods combined. Draft measures falling within the scope of the TBT Agreement were made publicly available through the national TBT Enquiry Point, enabling WTO Members to submit comments, which were taken into consideration in the process of finalizing policies and legislation.

4.7. Viet Nam also continued to strengthen its national quality infrastructure. During the 2021-2025 period, 2,221 national standards (TCVN) and 278 national technical regulations (QCVN) were issued. Viet Nam also continued to participate in and effectively implement Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) within ASEAN and international mechanisms such as the ILAC MRA, IAF MLA and APAC MRA, contributing to greater international recognition of Viet Nam's conformity assessment results. As of March 2026, Viet Nam had 2,318 conformity assessment bodies accredited in accordance with international standards, including 1,680 testing laboratories; 292 medical laboratories; 100 inspection bodies; 232 certification bodies; 11 proficiency testing providers; 3 reference material producers; and 03 accreditation bodies (BoA, AOSC and VACI).

4.8. In the coming period, Viet Nam will continue to improve its TBT system by making a stronger shift from ex ante inspection to ex post supervision based on risk management; accelerating the digitalization of management activities through the National Database on Standards, Metrology and Quality; and encouraging greater participation by the private sector in providing conformity assessment services in accordance with international standards, with a view to reducing compliance costs, enhancing transparency and facilitating trade and investment.

4.9. The TBT and SPS enquiry points continued to perform their functions of providing information to regulatory authorities, enterprises and WTO Members, while strengthening coordination in reviewing draft measures, receiving comments and addressing specific trade concerns arising in the implementation of international commitments.

4.10. In the SPS area, Viet Nam continued to improve regulations on food safety, animal and plant quarantine, and fisheries management on the basis of risk assessment and health protection requirements. The development and improvement of such regulations comply with the principle of facilitating international trade and improving market access opportunities for products that are safe for human, animal and plant health. Reform efforts focused on the digitalization of documentation, greater transparency of import requirements, enhanced coordination among authorities and shorter processing times for market access applications.

4.3 Trade remedies

4.11. Viet Nam conducts investigations and applies trade remedy measures in compliance with the provisions of Vietnamese law and the relevant WTO Agreements, while ensuring the legitimate interests of the parties concerned.

4.12. During the review period, Viet Nam continued to improve its legal framework on trade remedies on the basis of the 2017 Law on Foreign Trade Management and its implementing regulations, in order to respond to practical requirements arising from the global trend towards trade protectionism while ensuring consistency with international commitments, including the WTO Agreements. The current legal framework has supplemented and improved provisions on

investigations into the circumvention of trade remedy measures, exemptions from the application of trade remedy measures, procedures for investigations and reviews, support for Vietnamese enterprises in trade remedy cases initiated by foreign countries, as well as mechanisms for applying special safeguard measures under FTAs to which Viet Nam is a party.

4.13. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam continued to review, amend and issue implementing regulations to enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement of trade remedy legislation, notably Decree No. 86/2025/ND-CP replacing Decree No. 10/2018/ND-CP and Circular No. 26/2025/TT-BCT replacing previous implementing circulars. At the same time, the Ministry of Industry and Trade also issued and amended circulars providing guidance on the implementation of trade remedy commitments under the UKVFTA, EVFTA, CPTPP and RCEP. The improvement of the legal framework has contributed to enhancing the transparency and effectiveness of trade remedy investigations, providing a clear legal basis for the investigating authority and interested parties, while ensuring that the application of trade remedy measures is consistent with WTO rules and Viet Nam's international commitments.

4.4 Trade in services

4.14. Viet Nam continued to implement the commitments set out in its WTO Schedule of Specific Commitments on Services and to improve legislation in the areas of telecommunications, financial services, transport, distribution, postal services, tourism, education, health and professional services. Market access and licensing conditions are stipulated in sector-specific legislation and the list of market access conditions applicable to foreign investors.

4.4.1 Legal services

4.15. Viet Nam continued to fully implement its WTO commitments on legal services. Existing legislation allows foreign law-practising organizations to establish a commercial presence in forms consistent with the commitments and to provide legal services within the permitted scope. By the end of 2025, more than 100 foreign law-practising organizations and more than 300 foreign lawyers were operating in Viet Nam, reflecting a relatively open and stable investment environment in this sector.

4.4.2 Telecommunications services

4.16. The legal framework for telecommunications continued to be improved through the 2023 Law on Telecommunications and its implementing regulations, with a view to simplifying licensing procedures, reducing business conditions and further facilitating the provision of services. Policies on foreign investment in the telecommunications sector continued to be implemented in accordance with investment legislation and Viet Nam's international commitments. By the end of 2025, 11 foreign-invested enterprises were participating in Viet Nam's telecommunications market.

4.4.3 Postal services

4.17. Viet Nam continued to maintain an open investment environment for postal services, with no restrictions on foreign ownership applicable to courier services within the scope of its WTO commitments. From 2021 to 2025, the Ministry of Science and Technology licensed 15 foreign-invested enterprises to provide postal services in Viet Nam.

4.4.4 Audiovisual services

4.18. Viet Nam continued to implement its WTO commitments on audiovisual services while ensuring a balance between market opening and the objectives of protecting cultural identity and managing information content. The domestic legal framework was further improved through the 2022 Law on Cinematography and its implementing regulations, while the participation of foreign investors in film production, distribution and dissemination continued to be governed by the scope of Viet Nam's commitments.

4.4.5 Distribution services

4.19. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam continued to implement its policies on distribution services as committed under the WTO, as incorporated into Decree No. 09/2018/ND-CP dated 15 January 2018. A Decree replacing Decree No. 09/2018/ND-CP is currently being developed and submitted to the competent authority for promulgation, with a view to continuing to ensure the implementation of Viet Nam's market-opening commitments on distribution services under the WTO and the FTAs to which Viet Nam is a party; strengthening decentralization; simplifying administrative procedures; and improving the effectiveness of state management in this sector.

4.4.6 Financial services

4.4.6.1 Securities and capital market services

4.20. During the review period, Viet Nam continued to reform its capital market with a view to enhancing transparency, facilitating access for domestic and foreign investors, and advancing the objective of upgrading the status of its securities market. Reforms focused on simplifying market access procedures, enhancing disclosure of information in English and improving trading infrastructure. By the end of 2025, stock market capitalization had reached approximately 77.9% of GDP, and Viet Nam's stock market was upgraded by FTSE Russell to "Secondary Emerging Market" status.

4.4.6.2 Insurance services

4.21. Viet Nam continued to improve the legal framework governing insurance business activities with a view to strengthening digital transformation, diversifying products and applying a risk-based supervision approach to enhance financial safety and regulatory effectiveness. At the same time, Viet Nam strengthened international cooperation and fostered a level playing field for domestic and foreign insurance enterprises.

4.4.6.3 Banking services

4.22. During the 2021–2025 period, the State Bank of Viet Nam continued to improve the legal framework, enhance policy transparency and implement international integration commitments in the banking sector. A number of legal documents were amended and supplemented to bring them more closely into line with international practices. At the same time, the State Bank of Viet Nam maintained a regular dialogue mechanism with the domestic and foreign banking community in order to promptly address difficulties, enhance policy predictability and improve the operating environment for credit institutions.

4.4.7 Recreational services

4.4.7.1 Entertainment services (theatre, live music and circus)

4.23. Viet Nam continued to improve the legal framework governing performing arts activities through Decree No. 144/2020/ND-CP, which took effect on 01 February 2021 and replaced previous regulations. The Decree modernized management methods, simplified administrative procedures and further facilitated the organization of performing arts activities, while ensuring that state management requirements were appropriate to the development conditions of the sector.

4.4.7.2 Online video game services

4.24. Viet Nam continued to improve the legal framework governing online video game services in order to respond to the development of the digital economy and enhance regulatory effectiveness. In 2024, the Government issued Decree No. 147/2024/ND-CP, replacing previous regulations on the management, provision and use of Internet services and online information, thereby providing a unified legal basis for the provision of online video game services and digital content services.

4.4.8 Transport services

4.4.8.1 Maritime transport services

4.25. Viet Nam continued to implement its WTO commitments in the maritime transport sector through a legal framework in which the relevant commitments have been fully incorporated into domestic law and which continues to be reviewed, with administrative procedures being simplified. The maritime transport market maintained a level of openness consistent with international commitments, with the participation of more than 40 foreign shipping lines, carrying more than 90% of Viet Nam's import and export cargo.

4.4.8.2 Air transport services

4.26. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam continued to expand international aviation cooperation through the negotiation of bilateral agreements and arrangements aimed at facilitating the international operations of Vietnamese and foreign airlines. Regulations on market access conditions and foreign ownership ratios in the aviation sector remained largely unchanged from the previous period and continued to be implemented in accordance with Viet Nam's international commitments.

4.4.8.3 Road, rail and inland waterway transport services and logistics services

4.27. Viet Nam continued to implement its WTO commitments on freight transport services and services auxiliary to transport on the basis of Decree No. 163/2017/ND-CP on logistics services business. During the review period, the legal framework governing these sectors remained largely stable, with no major changes in market access conditions, and continued to ensure consistency with Viet Nam's WTO commitments.

4.4.9 Movement of natural persons

4.28. During the review period, Viet Nam continued to improve regulations governing foreign workers employed in Viet Nam in order to further facilitate investment and business activities and the implementation of international commitments. Decree No. 219/2025/ND-CP simplified procedures for the issuance, re-issuance and extension of work permits, while clarifying provisions on intra-corporate transferees within the scope of the 11 service sectors in Viet Nam's WTO Schedule of Commitments. The new regulations contribute to facilitating the attraction of experts, managers and highly skilled workers to work in Viet Nam, while continuing to ensure state management requirements and consistency with international commitments.

4.5 Intellectual property

4.29. During the 2021–2026 period, Viet Nam continued to comprehensively improve its intellectual property legal framework in order to implement its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement and incorporate into domestic law commitments under new-generation FTAs such as the CPTPP, EVFTA and UKVFTA. The National Assembly adopted laws amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Law on Intellectual Property in 2022 and 2025, expanding the scope of protection for new subject matters of intellectual property rights, improving mechanisms for the protection of copyright and related rights in the digital environment, introducing provisions on artificial intelligence (AI), the responsibilities of digital platforms and intermediary service providers, strengthening civil remedies, and increasing the level of damages for infringements of intellectual property rights. At the same time, a number of implementing decrees and regulations on administrative sanctions were also issued, contributing to more effective enforcement and meeting the development requirements of the digital economy.

4.30. During the review period, Viet Nam acceded to three important WIPO treaties, namely the WCT, the WPPT and the Marrakesh Treaty, thereby continuing to improve its legal framework in line with international practices. Viet Nam also stepped up administrative procedure reforms, reducing the examination period for patent applications from 18 months to 12 months and for trademark applications from nine months to five months; expanding the scope of protection to new subject matters such as sound marks, partial industrial designs, non-physical products (graphical user interfaces and digital icons), and rights arising in the digital environment. The law also

introduced mechanisms to promote the commercial exploitation of intellectual property rights, facilitating the use of intellectual property rights in investment, capital contribution, mortgage and technology transfer activities.

4.31. During the 2021–2025 period, the competent authority received 378,941 applications for the establishment of industrial property rights, including 58,982 patent and utility solution applications, 302,037 trademark applications and 17,844 industrial design applications; and granted 259,685 protection titles. By 2025, Viet Nam had completed the processing of all overdue pending applications. In parallel, the Intellectual Property Strategy through 2030 and the Intellectual Property Asset Development Programme continued to be actively implemented, with more than 600 national-level tasks and approximately 1,500 local-level tasks, focusing on the development of inventions, geographical indications, collective marks, certification marks and brands for key products, thereby contributing to promoting innovation and the commercialization of intellectual property assets.

4.32. Viet Nam continued to strengthen the enforcement of intellectual property rights through close coordination among the Police, Customs, Market Surveillance authorities and the Courts. During the 2021–2025 period, the Market Surveillance force handled 19,876 infringement cases and imposed fines totalling VND 241.2 billion; the Police handled 13,812 cases and imposed fines totalling VND 442 billion, involving infringing goods valued at more than VND 1,093 billion; and the Customs detected and handled 263 cases involving infringing goods valued at VND 434.2 billion. With respect to criminal enforcement, the Police initiated criminal proceedings in five cases involving seven defendants for infringement of copyright and related rights (Article 225 of the Criminal Code), 138 cases involving 163 defendants for infringement of industrial property rights (Article 226 of the Criminal Code), and 721 cases involving 1,391 defendants for offences related to the manufacture and trading of counterfeit goods (Articles 192 to 195 of the Criminal Code).

4.33. In the digital environment alone, Viet Nam blocked access to a total of 1,052 infringing websites, including 263 websites providing pirated films, 177 websites providing pirated comics and 612 websites providing unauthorized television content. In implementation of Official Telegram No. 38/CD-TTg dated 05 May 2026 of the Prime Minister, from 05 May 2026 to 19 June 2026, the Police initiated criminal proceedings in 10 cases involving 43 defendants for infringement of copyright and related rights, 58 cases involving 71 defendants for infringement of industrial property rights, and 22 cases involving 28 defendants for offences related to the manufacture and trading of counterfeit goods. In addition, during the same period, the Police administratively handled 236 cases, imposing fines totalling VND 2.3 billion, with infringing goods valued at VND 12 billion.

4.34. To enhance enforcement effectiveness, Viet Nam established substantive coordination mechanisms through 18 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with major organizations and e-commerce platforms such as Shopee, TikTok and Lazada to establish rapid response procedures. From 2021 to date, the Agency for Domestic Market Surveillance and Development under the Ministry of Industry and Trade has organized 16 training courses for 1,115 Market Surveillance officials on matters related to the enforcement of intellectual property rights. In addition, jurisdiction over intellectual property disputes has been concentrated in 02 regional courts in Ha Noi (Region 2) and Ho Chi Minh City (Region 1) since 01 July 2025 pursuant to Resolution No. 81/2025/NQ-UBTVQH15, with a view to maximizing specialization in adjudication. Viet Nam is also urgently finalizing the draft amendments to the Criminal Code to introduce criminal sanctions for acts infringing satellite signals and technological protection measures (TPMs).

4.35. In addition, more than 600 national-level tasks and 1,500 local-level tasks have been implemented, focusing on the establishment, management and exploitation of intellectual property rights relating to geographical indications, certification marks, collective marks, inventions and utility solutions, as well as brand development for distinctive and key local products. The vast majority of provinces and centrally governed cities nationwide have introduced their own support mechanisms, gradually establishing a local-level network to support the development of intellectual property assets.

4.6 Government procurement, subsidies and investment support

4.36. The Law on Bidding and the electronic procurement system continued to be improved with a view to enhancing competition, transparency, efficiency and accountability in government

procurement. Viet Nam implements its government procurement commitments under relevant FTAs and continues to strengthen the capacity of procuring entities and contractors.

4.37. Investment and enterprise support programmes are implemented in pursuit of development objectives relating to sectors, geographical areas, science and technology, innovation, green transition and support for SMEs. Viet Nam continues to review the transparency, access criteria and effectiveness of these programmes, while fulfilling its notification obligations under the relevant WTO Agreements.

4.7 Transparency and notifications

4.38. Viet Nam considers transparency an essential element of the trade and investment environment. Consultation on draft legal normative documents and the publication of legal normative documents are carried out in accordance with the Law on Promulgation of Legal Normative Documents.

4.39. Viet Nam continues to strengthen inter-agency coordination in fulfilling WTO notification obligations, updating information at enquiry points and building the capacity of central and local authorities. Improving the quality and timeliness of notifications is a priority for the coming period.

5 SECTORAL POLICIES AND EMERGING TRADE ISSUES

5.1 Agriculture, fisheries and forestry

5.1. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam's agricultural policy focused on the objective of developing ecological, modern and sustainable agriculture, with an emphasis on restructuring the sector in line with competitive advantages and market demand; developing key commodity sectors; and increasing value added and production efficiency through the application of science and technology, reorganization of production and development of value chains. At the same time, Viet Nam promoted new-style rural development, rural economic development and higher incomes for the population, while encouraging green agricultural models, the circular economy and climate change adaptation, with a view to inclusive growth and sustainable development. These orientations were implemented through the Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development for the 2021–2030 period (Prime Minister's Decision No. 150/QD-TTg dated 28 January 2022); the Plan for Agricultural Restructuring for the 2021–2025 period (Prime Minister's Decision No. 255/QD-TTg dated 25 February 2021); the National Target Programme on New-Style Rural Development for the 2021–2025 period (Prime Minister's Decision No. 263/QD-TTg dated 22 February 2022); and policies promoting green agricultural development.

5.2. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam focused on reforming land policies to improve the efficiency of land use for the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. An important milestone was the adoption of the 2024 Land Law, effective from 01 January 2025, which established a new legal framework for land management and use. Prior to this, the Government had implemented a range of reforms, including improving national and provincial land-use planning, reviewing mechanisms for the accumulation and concentration of agricultural land, accelerating the digitalization of cadastral records and the provision of online public services for land registration, with a view to enhancing transparency, reducing administrative procedures and facilitating access for individuals and enterprises. At the same time, regulations governing forest land, agricultural land and aquaculture land continued to be improved towards the sustainable use of resources and strengthened environmental protection.

5.3. The above reforms were also specified for individual production sectors. In agriculture, policies encouraged land accumulation, the development of concentrated raw-material production areas and high-tech agriculture, while facilitating access to land for cooperatives and enterprises. In forestry, forest land management mechanisms were tightened, while the development of large-timber forests, payments for forest environmental services and the carbon economy were promoted. In fisheries, land and water-surface planning was adjusted towards the development of concentrated aquaculture areas and the expansion of long-term land lease mechanisms for marine aquaculture and large-scale production. These reforms contributed to improving land-use efficiency, attracting investment and promoting modern and sustainable agricultural development.

5.4. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam's livestock and veterinary policies shifted strongly from quantitative expansion towards improving quality, effective disease control, sustainable development and emission reduction. Reforms focused on supporting greater livestock production efficiency, disease control throughout value chains, enhanced traceability and food safety, reduced use of antibiotics, promotion of the circular economy in livestock waste treatment, and adjustment of the frequency of import inspections on the basis of risk assessment in order to facilitate trade and reduce compliance costs.

5.5. During the review period, Viet Nam stepped up efforts to improve the legal framework for the sustainable development of the fisheries sector, strengthen the protection of aquatic resources, and prevent and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Key measures included controlling imported fishery products derived from capture fisheries in accordance with the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), strengthening monitoring of fishing vessels entering and leaving ports, strengthening fishing fleet management, applying fishing logbooks, establishing an electronic logbook system, and improving mechanisms for the traceability of domestically caught fishery products.

5.6. Forestry policy during the 2021–2025 period focused on sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and ensuring the legality, transparency and traceability of timber and forest product supply chains. Viet Nam strengthened the implementation of international commitments, enhanced controls on illegal logging and trade in forest products, prepared to meet new market requirements such as the EU Deforestation Regulation, and promoted multi-value forestry development, sustainable forest certification, forest carbon markets, wood processing and the application of digital technologies in the monitoring, management and traceability of forest products.

5.2 Industry, energy and minerals

5.7. During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam continued to improve its industrial development policies with a view to enhancing competitiveness, increasing value added and participating more deeply in global value chains through the adoption of development strategies for a number of key industries. For the textile, garment and footwear industries, the Government pursued the orientation of promoting exports, developing production based on green and circular economy models, and effectively utilizing new-generation free trade agreements such as the EVFTA, UKVFTA and CPTPP. For the semiconductor industry, policies focused on developing high-quality human resources and strengthening production, assembly, and research and development (R&D) capacity, thereby gradually enabling Viet Nam to participate more deeply in the global semiconductor supply chain and promoting the development of high-tech industries.

5.8. In the energy sector, during the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam continued to improve its institutions, policies and legal framework through the issuance and amendment of a number of important documents, including the 2024 Law on Electricity, Power Development Plan VIII, the Adjusted Power Development Plan VIII and their respective implementation plans. These policies provide orientations for the development of the power system towards ensuring national energy security and meeting economic growth needs, while promoting a green and sustainable energy transition. The focus is on strongly developing renewable energy and low-emission power sources, modernizing the transmission system and smart grids, strengthening economical and efficient energy use, mobilizing diversified investment resources, improving the competitive electricity market, and gradually implementing the objective of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

5.9. Mineral management continued to be improved towards economical and efficient use, greater deep processing, environmental protection and enhanced transparency in mining activities. Viet Nam placed emphasis on developing value chains for certain important minerals, in line with its industrial development strategy and international obligations.

5.3 Digital economy and e-commerce

5.10. Digital transformation and the digital economy: During the 2021–2025 period, Viet Nam continued to improve the legal framework for promoting digital transformation and digital economic development through the adoption of the 2023 Law on Electronic Transactions and implementing regulations on digital signatures, electronic signatures, trust services and the recognition of foreign

electronic certificates. At the same time, the Government adopted the National Strategy for the Development of the Digital Economy and Digital Society, together with programmes to promote national digital platforms, thereby establishing a safe, transparent and reliable legal environment for electronic transactions, digital finance and digital business models.

5.11. Digital technology industry: Viet Nam promoted the development of the digital technology industry through policies supporting emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain and innovation. The Semiconductor Industry Development Strategy and policies for the development of supporting industries have contributed to attracting leading global technology corporations to expand investment and establish research and development (R&D) centres, promoting the development of the electronics and semiconductor industries and enhancing Viet Nam's position in global technology supply chains.

5.12. E-commerce: Viet Nam continued to comprehensively improve the institutional framework for e-commerce through the adoption of the 2025 Law on E-Commerce, Decree No. 248/2026/ND-CP and the Master Plan for National E-Commerce Development for the 2026–2030 period. The new legal framework comprehensively regulates e-commerce platform models, livestream selling, affiliate marketing, cross-border e-commerce and e-commerce support services; while strengthening consumer protection, the management of foreign platforms, promoting green e-commerce and expanding opportunities for enterprises, household businesses and individuals to participate. The development plan for the 2026–2030 period sets targets for e-commerce retail sales to account for 20% of total retail sales of goods, 70% of adults to shop online, and more than 70% of enterprises to use e-commerce.

5.4 Trade and sustainable development

5.13. Viet Nam considers sustainable development, green growth and climate change response to be overarching orientations in the process of economic restructuring and international integration. Based on its commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, Viet Nam is implementing the National Green Growth Strategy, action programmes on greenhouse gas emission reduction, climate change adaptation, circular economy development and just energy transition. These policies are aimed at the economical and efficient use of resources and energy, the development of renewable energy, sustainable production and consumption, while enhancing the resilience of the economy to climate and environmental risks and supply chain disruptions.

5.14. In the area of trade, Viet Nam continued to integrate environmental and sustainable development objectives into the formulation and implementation of policies. Measures being implemented include improving the system of standards and technical regulations for green products and low-emission production; implementing traceability, sustainable production certification and the use of traceable raw materials in accordance with legal requirements; implementing extended producer responsibility; developing the domestic carbon market; and encouraging enterprises to adopt green and circular economy models, energy-efficient practices and modern technologies. Viet Nam also strengthened support for enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in accessing information and technical advice and enhancing their capacity to meet new requirements in export markets relating to carbon emissions, deforestation, labour, environmental governance and supply chain transparency.

5.15. Viet Nam continued to implement commitments on trade and sustainable development under FTAs, including commitments relating to environmental protection, climate change, sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, sustainable forestry and fisheries development, and international labour standards. Dialogue mechanisms, specialized committees and domestic advisory groups were maintained to review implementation, strengthen the participation of enterprises, social organizations and relevant stakeholders. At the same time, Viet Nam promoted cooperation with international partners in sharing experience in management and implementation, technology transfer, green finance, human resource training and the development of clean energy projects, thereby supporting a transition suited to Viet Nam's conditions and level of development.

5.16. Labour and social security policies continued to be improved to ensure that the green and digital transitions are fair and inclusive and leave no one behind. Viet Nam placed emphasis on developing sustainable employment, enhancing skills and reskilling workers, expanding social insurance coverage, strengthening occupational safety and health, and protecting the lawful rights

and interests of workers. Viet Nam also continued to implement labour commitments under FTAs, cooperate with the International Labour Organization, and support workers, enterprises and localities in adapting to changes in technology, production structures and sustainable development requirements.

6 MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

6.1 Participation in and contributions to the WTO

6.1. *Contribution to WTO reform:* During the 2021–2026 period, Viet Nam continued to reaffirm its support for a rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO playing a central role in global trade governance. Viet Nam actively participated in discussions on WTO reform aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization, strengthening its capacity to respond to new challenges such as digital transformation, sustainable development and economic security, while supporting the full restoration of the WTO dispute settlement system. Viet Nam also continued to promote a fair and inclusive international trading system that safeguards the interests of developing countries and enhances the transparency and predictability of the multilateral trading system.

6.2. *Implementation of new WTO agreements and initiatives:* During the review period, Viet Nam proactively participated in and implemented a number of important WTO initiatives. Viet Nam ratified the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in September 2025 and adopted an Implementation Plan to ensure the full implementation of its obligations under the Agreement, contributing to the promotion of transparent and sustainable fisheries management. Viet Nam also officially joined the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) in October 2025, demonstrating its commitment to maintaining an effective dispute settlement mechanism while the WTO Appellate Body remains non-operational.

6.3. *Participation in the development of new trade rules:* Viet Nam continued preparations to participate in WTO plurilateral initiatives in response to evolving trends in global trade. Following the stabilization of the text of the E-Commerce Agreement (ECA) in 2024, Viet Nam initiated domestic procedures in preparation for joining the Agreement. At the same time, Viet Nam also completed the necessary procedures to launch negotiations for accession to the expanded Information Technology Agreement (ITA2), thereby reaffirming its policy of promoting digital transformation, developing high-tech industries and integrating more deeply into global value chains.

6.4. *Active participation in WTO activities:* In addition to participating in new initiatives, Viet Nam continued to contribute actively to the work of WTO bodies through full participation in Ministerial Conferences, the General Council, Committees and specialized Working Groups, including in areas such as agriculture, SPS, TBT, subsidies, anti-dumping, safeguards and e-commerce. Viet Nam also actively participated in consensus-building efforts, promoted dialogue and supported developing countries in the negotiation and implementation of WTO rules.

6.5. *Ensuring full implementation of WTO commitments:* In parallel with its active participation in WTO activities, Viet Nam continued to review and improve its domestic legal framework to ensure consistency with its obligations under the WTO and the free trade agreements to which Viet Nam is a party. The policy-making process was conducted on the basis of broad consultations with ministries, sectors, the business community and relevant stakeholders, contributing to greater transparency, predictability and effectiveness in the implementation of international commitments, while creating a stable and favourable trade and investment environment for domestic and foreign enterprises.

6.2 ASEAN, APEC and ASEM

6.6. ASEAN continued to be a pillar of Viet Nam's international economic integration policy. During the review period, Viet Nam actively participated in the implementation of ASEAN Economic Community initiatives, promoting trade and investment liberalization, trade facilitation, customs connectivity, the digitalization of documents and greater supply chain resilience. Viet Nam also worked closely with other Member States to address non-tariff barriers, enhance policy transparency and promote intra-regional trade, thereby strengthening ASEAN centrality in the regional economic architecture.

6.7. During the 2021–2026 period, Viet Nam continued to participate actively in regional economic cooperation mechanisms, particularly the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), thereby contributing to sustainable growth, stronger economic linkages and the reinforcement of the rules-based multilateral trading system. Within APEC, Viet Nam actively participated in the implementation of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action, while contributing to initiatives on trade and investment facilitation, digital transformation, innovation, inclusive development, support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), green growth, energy transition and enhanced capacity to participate in regional supply chains. Viet Nam also actively contributed to shaping the APEC agenda and prepared to host APEC in 2027.

6.8. Within ASEM, Viet Nam continued to promote economic, trade and investment cooperation between Asia and Europe and actively participated in initiatives on trade facilitation, supply chain connectivity, digital transformation, sustainable development and climate change response. Viet Nam also worked closely with ASEM partners to promote policy dialogue, strengthen technical cooperation and share experience in support of post-pandemic economic recovery, greater supply chain resilience, and open, transparent and inclusive trade and investment. Through its active and responsible participation in APEC and ASEM, Viet Nam continued to affirm its role as an active partner contributing to stronger regional economic linkages and international economic integration.

6.3 Regional and bilateral FTAs

6.9. *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*: Viet Nam continued to actively implement and participate in the upgrading of the CPTPP, while also participating in accession negotiations with new members. In 2026, Viet Nam assumed the role of CPTPP Chair, with priorities including upgrading the Agreement, expanding its membership, strengthening implementation and improving administrative support mechanisms, thereby affirming Viet Nam's active role within the CPTPP framework.

6.10. *Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)*: RCEP is a prominent outcome of ASEAN's central role in the regional economic architecture, linking the 10 ASEAN Member States with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Viet Nam actively implemented commitments on tariffs, rules of origin, customs, services and investment, thereby enabling enterprises to benefit from a common set of rules, strengthen production linkages and participate more deeply in regional supply chains.

6.11. *Viet Nam–European Union Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA)*: The EVFTA is one of Viet Nam's most important new-generation FTAs. During the review period, Viet Nam fully implemented the commitments under the Agreement, effectively maintained the Trade Committee and specialized committee mechanisms, and coordinated with the EU to address implementation-related issues. The Agreement continued to provide impetus for trade and investment and to support Vietnamese enterprises in accessing the EU market with higher standards.

6.12. *Viet Nam – United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (UKVFTA)*: Since its entry into force in 2021, the UKVFTA has been effectively implemented, ensuring continuity in Viet Nam-United Kingdom trade relations following Brexit. The two sides have maintained the annual Trade Committee mechanism, while promoting cooperation on sustainable trade, supply chain transparency and trade facilitation. Bilateral trade has continued to grow steadily.

6.13. *Viet Nam – Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (VJEPA)*: The VJEPA entered into force on 1 October 2009. Under the tariff reduction schedule committed under the Agreement, 2026 is the final year of the tariff reduction schedule, under which Viet Nam will eliminate import duties on approximately 90.64% of the total tariff lines in its Schedule of Commitments; Japan has committed to eliminating tariffs on 96.45% of the total tariff lines in its Schedule for Vietnamese goods. The implementation of tariff reduction commitments under the VJEPA has generally proceeded on schedule, gradually increasing the level of trade liberalization, facilitating access for Japanese goods to the Vietnamese market, and contributing to the stable and sustainable development of bilateral trade relations.

6.14. *Viet Nam – Korea Free Trade Agreement (VKFTA)*: After nearly 10 years of implementation, the VKFTA continues to be one of the important FTAs promoting economic, trade and investment

relations between Viet Nam and the Republic of Korea. The two sides have effectively maintained the Joint Committee and specialized Sub-Committees to review the implementation of the Agreement and address issues relating to trade in goods, services, investment, TBT, SPS, customs, rules of origin and trade remedies.

6.15. *Viet Nam – Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement (VN-EAEU FTA)*: The VN-EAEU FTA entered into force in October 2016, establishing a trade framework between Viet Nam and the five EAEU members, namely the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. The Agreement provides for market opening for nearly 90% of tariff lines, equivalent to more than 90% of bilateral trade.

6.16. *Viet Nam – Chile Free Trade Agreement (VCFTA)*: After more than 10 years of implementation, the Viet Nam – Chile Free Trade Agreement (VCFTA) continues to effectively promote bilateral trade relations. The two countries have progressively implemented their tariff reduction commitments, moving towards liberalization of approximately 88% of Viet Nam's tariff lines by 2028 and 99.6% of Chile's tariff lines by 2029.

6.17. *Viet Nam – UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)*: The Viet Nam – UAE CEPA was signed on 28 October 2024 and officially entered into force on 3 February 2026. This is Viet Nam's first FTA with a Middle Eastern country and was concluded after approximately one year of negotiations, establishing a comprehensive legal framework to promote trade and investment and strengthen connectivity between Viet Nam and the Middle East and North Africa region.

6.18. *Viet Nam – Israel Free Trade Agreement (VIFTA)*: The VIFTA entered into force on 17 November 2025. The Agreement establishes a comprehensive framework for cooperation in trade in goods, services, investment and trade facilitation, contributing to expanded market access opportunities, enhanced cooperation in technology and innovation, and the diversification of Viet Nam's export markets.

6.19. *Viet Nam – European Free Trade Association Free Trade Agreement (EFTA)*: Viet Nam and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, officially concluded negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement on 2 July 2026 after 21 formal negotiating rounds. The two sides are currently completing their respective internal legal procedures with a view to signing the Agreement.

6.20. *ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)*: Viet Nam continues to fully implement its commitments under ATIGA and actively participate in the process of upgrading the Agreement, which was launched in 2022. The upgrade focuses on enhancing transparency, addressing non-tariff barriers, facilitating trade and introducing new provisions to promote intra-regional trade, strengthen supply chain resilience and ensure that ATIGA is better aligned with developments in the digital economy and regional trade.

6.21. *ASEAN – China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA)*: Viet Nam actively participated in negotiations to upgrade the ACFTA with a view to expanding cooperation in trade, investment, the digital economy, supply chains and sustainable development between ASEAN and China. Following the signing of the upgrading Protocol in October 2025, Viet Nam is undertaking domestic procedures for approval and preparing for implementation, thereby creating additional market access opportunities and strengthening the connectivity of Vietnamese enterprises with regional value chains.

6.22. *ASEAN – Australia – New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA*): During the review period, Viet Nam actively participated in the upgrading of AANZFTA and completed procedures for the ratification of the Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement, which entered into force for Viet Nam in August 2025. The upgrading Protocol modernizes provisions on trade in goods, services, investment, e-commerce and sustainable development, contributing to enhanced transparency, greater facilitation for businesses and stronger supply chain linkages among ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand.

6.23. *ASEAN – India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA):* Viet Nam continues to coordinate with ASEAN Member States and India in the review and upgrading of AITIGA with a view to improving market access, simplifying rules of origin, enhancing trade facilitation and addressing issues arising

during implementation. The parties are advancing negotiations with the aim of completing them in 2026, thereby establishing a more balanced and effective trade framework between ASEAN and India.

6.24. *ASEAN – Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA):* During the review period, Viet Nam completed procedures for the ratification of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN – Korea Trade in Goods Agreement, which entered into force for Viet Nam in November 2023. Viet Nam also participated in the process of upgrading the AKFTA launched in 2026, with the objective of modernizing the Agreement, expanding cooperation into new areas and enhancing the effectiveness of ASEAN–Korea trade, investment and supply chain linkages.

6.25. *ASEAN – Canada Free Trade Agreement (ACaFTA):* Viet Nam has actively participated in the ACaFTA negotiations since the process was launched in 2021. The Agreement is expected to expand ASEAN's network of trading partners in North America and create additional market access opportunities for Vietnamese goods, services and investment; the parties are advancing negotiations according to the agreed roadmap with a view to substantially concluding them in 2026.

6.26. In addition to the FTAs mentioned above, Viet Nam is conducting negotiations on FTAs and PTAs with a number of trading partners, including MERCOSUR and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), among others.

6.27. During the review period, Viet Nam proactively enhanced the effectiveness of FTA implementation by developing an implementation governance system based on three pillars: (i) operating the Government's FTA Portal (FTAP); (ii) developing and annually publishing the FTA Implementation Index for localities (FTA Index); and (iii) developing and operating the FTA Utilization Ecosystem.

7 FUTURE DIRECTIONS

7.1. As Viet Nam enters the 2026–2030 development period, it considers this a decisive stage in achieving its goal of becoming a developed, high-income country by 2045. Under the National Assembly's Resolution on the Socio-Economic Development Plan for the 2026–2030 period, Viet Nam aims to become a country with modern industry, rank among the world's 30 largest economies by GDP, maintain average annual GDP growth of 10% or higher, and raise GDP per capita to USD 7,500–8,000 by 2030. The focus of the new development period is to transform the growth model towards one based on productivity, science, technology, innovation and the development of high-quality human resources.

7.2. To achieve these objectives, Viet Nam will continue to accelerate institutional reform and improve the socialist-oriented market economy; build a streamlined, effective and efficient state apparatus; promote decentralization and delegation of authority coupled with accountability; and substantially improve the investment and business environment towards greater transparency, stability and predictability. The Government will continue to remove barriers to production and business activities, safeguard the freedom to conduct business, develop different types of markets in a coordinated manner, and effectively mobilize and allocate all resources for development.

7.3. Viet Nam identifies the private sector as one of the most important drivers of the economy. In the coming period, the Government will focus on implementing major policies for private enterprise development, promoting innovation, digital transformation, and the development of science and technology; developing a national innovation ecosystem; and supporting enterprises in enhancing their technological and management capabilities and their ability to participate in global value chains. At the same time, Viet Nam will continue to accelerate the development of strategic infrastructure, particularly transport, energy, logistics and digital infrastructure; and develop modern financial markets, capital markets, and science and technology markets to provide a foundation for rapid and sustainable growth.

7.4. Sustainable development will continue to be an overarching orientation throughout Viet Nam's development process. The Government will accelerate the green transition, develop the circular economy, use resources efficiently, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement international commitments on climate change; while strengthening social security, developing

human resources, narrowing development gaps among regions and ensuring that all people benefit from the achievements of economic growth.

7.5. In foreign affairs and international economic integration, Viet Nam will continue to consistently pursue a foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, multilateralization and diversification of external relations, while proactively and actively pursuing comprehensive, extensive and effective international integration. Viet Nam will continue to fully implement its commitments under the WTO and free trade agreements, while proactively participating in the development of new economic cooperation frameworks, promoting regional and global economic linkages, and diversifying markets, partners and supply chains. Viet Nam will also continue to play an active role in the WTO, ASEAN, APEC, ASEM and other international economic cooperation mechanisms, contributing to the strengthening of an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system.

7.6. Building on a foundation of political and social stability, the growing scale of its economy, a strong commitment to reform and a clear long-term development strategy, Viet Nam is confident that it will successfully achieve its development objectives for the 2026–2030 period, continue to enhance national competitiveness, and affirm its position as a dynamic and responsible economy and a reliable partner in the region and the world.